

CHALLENGE



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NURSES STRIKE AGAINST SEXISM

JOLIET, ILLINOIS, July 21—For the past 16 days, nearly 700, mainly women nurses gathered for a courageous anti-sexist strike braving summer heat and rain. Taking action after their contract with AMITA Health St. Joseph's Medical Center expired, these Black, Asian, and white nurses joined the ranks of workers worldwide who are fighting back against increased abuse, hypocrisy, and exploitation from the capitalist healthcare bosses during the pandemic.

For the first time in nearly 25 years, the workers of AMITA authorized a strike through their union to demand sufficient staffing, livable salaries and benefits, and an end to the bullying working conditions. While the sellout Illinois Nurses Association (INA) signed a new contract today, nurses have shown that the fight is far from over. Reforms under capitalism can always be reversed. Comrades from the international Progressive Labor Party (PLP) salute the bold striking nurses for their example, and invite them and all workers to fight for genuine power through revolution. We fight for the line that only a worker-run egalitarian society can guarantee freedom from pandemics, racist police terror, sexism and war. By fighting for communism, we are fighting for our collective health!

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the deadly sexism and racism that fuels the capitalist system. The overwhelming majority of front-line workers thrown into dangerous and unknown working conditions as the infections ramped up have primarily been Black, Latin, Asian, and immigrant women (see page 2). Thousands of workers nationwide have already been sent to an early grave in the bosses' ruthless scramble for profits. But thousands and thousands of workers, especially women workers, have fought back and set a militant example for others to follow.

Picket against capitalist exploitation

Shortly after learning about the strike, PLP comrades visited the nurses' picket on multiple occasions to extend antisexist, antiracist communist solidarity to these working-class fighters. We instantly received warm welcomes from the nurses, and praise for our homemade signs attacking racism and capitalism. Practically everyone on the picket took CHALLENGE, and we were able to engage in conversation with many and make new



Filipino nurses share their strike experience with PLP. Nurses deserve working conditions based on need and safety, not profit. We need communism for that.

contacts.

The nurses personally confirmed many of the bosses' attacks, including chronic short-staffing and the proposed elimination of sick pay for new hires. They openly called out the hypocrisy of the hospital bosses for their empty words that have hailed healthcare workers as "heroes" throughout the pandemic, but who have consistently failed to address the dangerous conditions inside for nurses and patients alike. In a field that is 91 percent women, these working conditions are inherently sexist.

Many nurses on the picket line were immigrant women from the Philippines. Coming to the U.S. and signing work visa contracts with hospitals, they historically have been harassed and intimidated against organizing or even speaking out

against the bosses' sexist working conditions.

Their energetic leadership in this struggle and in so many others shows clearly that the most oppressed workers under this rotten system are suited to give some of the most militant and revolutionary leadership against it.

#unionfails

The INA did nearly nothing to draw wider working-class support into the struggle.

After spending more time on the picket lines, PLP learned that negotiations were really going nowhere, and that there was no real vision or political leadership on the direction or goals of the strike. The first contract offer was so bad, that

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com

Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202

Internet
www.plp.org

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram:
@PLPchallenge

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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Editorial

Pandemic intensifies capitalist sexism

As of July 21, according to the New York Times, more than 600,000 workers worldwide have been killed by the coronavirus pandemic. In the U.S. alone, more than 140,000 workers have died and more than 58,000 are hospitalized with Covid-19 (COVID Tracking Project, 7/21). In the midst of this deadly siege, as the capitalist rulers push to “reopen” their economy and sacrifice our class for their profit, the burden of supporting and safeguarding workers has fallen primarily on women—and especially upon Black, Latin, Asian, indigenous, and immigrant women.

The profit system creates a stark division between paid and unpaid labor like housekeeping and childrearing, and between the status accorded to “women’s work” and jobs mostly reserved for men. With Covid-19 intensifying every toxic aspect of capitalism, woman workers are the most economically and socially vulnerable and the most physically exposed to the lasting effects of Covid-19.

Capitalism cannot exist without sexism, the super-exploitation and special oppression of women. According to a 2018 report by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, which considered both wage differentials and the gap in responsibility for childcare, women earned just 49 cents for every dollar earned by men over a 15-year period (Vox, 4/2/19). When the capitalists pay women less, they’re able to use sexist inequality to lower wages for men workers as well. Long before the pandemic surfaced, sexism infected our class through the objectification of women and gender discrimination against gay and trans workers. Most of all, sexism divides women and men workers and fractures our fightback.

Only under communism, when we abolish money and smash for-profit labor, will we see egalitarian, collectivized living. Only then will we break ourselves free from our sexist and racist chains.

The value of unpaid labor

While working men are dying from Covid-19 at even higher rates, women “make up more than half of low-wage workers in every state, leaving them in particularly vulnerable positions as the economy sheds jobs at an unprecedented rate. Almost 90 percent of nurses are women, as are the majority of child care workers, housekeepers, cleaners, maids, nursing assistants and home health aids in elder care and rehabilitation facilities” (NBC News, 4/20).

Internationally, women workers have been hit hardest by sexist and racist inequality and violence, the bosses’ deadliest weapon against our class. Thousands of women working in nursing homes and hospitals are perishing from capitalist neglect and the lack of protective gear. Millions more are unemployed after working in industries shuttered by the pandemic or needing to stay home with school-aged children. In the U.S., women account for 55 percent of the 20.5 million thrown into unemployment, with the highest jobless rates among Black and Latin women (NPR, 5/9). In India, women are more likely to lose their jobs and to be pushed into arranged marriages, which limit their future autonomy (NYT, 7/15). In Britain, Black and Asian working women reported struggling to feed their families (fawcettsociety.org). From the U.S. to Mexico to South Africa, reports of domestic violence have spiked.

Globally, women workers carry out 12.5 billion hours of unpaid care work every day. If valued at minimum wage, this would represent a contribution of at least \$10.9 trillion a year, more than three times the size of the global tech industry (OxFam International).

Sexist healthcare worsens in crisis

Under capitalism, health care is not only abysmal but also notoriously sexist and racist. Studies have shown that women are more likely to be inadequately treated for pain or dementia (Guardian, 11/20/17) and suffer a higher death rate after heart attacks (MedCity News, 5/4/19). Two of three pregnancy-related maternal deaths would be preventable with adequate medical care (NYT, 7/13).

Even before Covid-19, Black women in the U.S. were bearing the brunt of the healthcare system’s sexism and racism. They were 243 percent more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women, 22 percent more likely to die from heart disease, and 71 percent more likely to die from cervical cancer (npr.org, 12/7/17). This criminal situation has only gotten worse during the pandemic. In April, Deborah Gate-

wood, a Black nurse who worked for 31 years in a Detroit hospital, was denied treatment by hospital doctors four times before eventually dying from Covid-19. Murderous neglect is par for the course in a system that “routinely treat[s] black people’s pain and suffering far less seriously than that of other patients. It is the result of preposterous, anti-science assumptions [doctors] hold about black people, which their medical schools and hospitals still have not forced them to unlearn” (Guardian, 5/4).

Black women are key to revolution

As Black and Latin workers confront police violence and are killed by kkkops, it is often the mothers and sisters of these lost workers who march to the front and lead us in the fightback. They are the warriors and leaders we need against sexism and racism!

Since December 2019, the family of Alex Flores, who was murdered by the Los Angeles Police Department, has been fighting back. The political leadership of their marches and organizing is largely led by the women of Alex’s family. Many of their husbands stay home with the children, a great example of what life will be like under communism, when all labor will be collective.

In Brooklyn, the family of Shantel Davis, murdered by the New York Police Department in 2012, continues to lead antiracist fightback in the name of Shantel and so many others killed by capitalism. And this past week, we remembered and continued to fight for Kyam Livingston, a 37-year-old mother killed by medical neglect in Brooklyn Central Booking in 2013. For seven years now, Kyam’s family, led by her mother, have been calling the bosses to account.

Capitalist feminism is not anti-sexist

Only a mass working-class revolution, led by a revolutionary communist party, will free our class. Workers must be wary of the rise of women politicians who have risen to serve the capitalist class. They have been handed “power” only to use it against us.

Hillary Clinton’s shameful career as a racist misleader who championed mass incarceration and the deeper impoverishment of welfare recipients, made it clear that feminism and liberal identity politics are dead ends for the working class. Calls to break the corporate world’s “glass ceiling” are supported by the capitalist rulers for a reason. These backward ideas are designed to confuse women workers’ class loyalties and to funnel their anti-sexist anger into individualism and empty electoral reform.

Is that antisexist? No!

Michelle Obama, often touted as the feminist pinnacle of “Black excellence,” encouraged workers to vote for Clinton, saying: "The best qualified candidate in this last race was a woman...and she wasn't perfect, but she was way more perfect than many of the alternatives" (Newsweek, 4/5/18).

Is that antisexist? No!

In 2019, Lori Lightfoot, former assistant U.S. attorney, became Chicago’s first Black woman mayor and the city’s first to identify as lesbian. She then fought against a citywide education strike, arguing against increased school funding and staffing while handing out over a billion dollars in workers’ taxes to finance private real estate developments (see CHALLENGE, 2/20). By attacking the mostly women workers, Lightfoot also attacked those who will get hurt the most—students.

Is that antisexist? No!

Communist revolution is antisexist

The Progressive Labor Party fights against sexism and capitalist feminism. It is crucial to attack sexist practices and understand how capitalist crises heighten the sexist and racist super-exploitation of sections of the working class.

As women workers internationally fight to keep themselves and our class brothers and sisters alive, we must continue to fight for a world that follows their leadership. Above all, we must stay vigilant against liberal misleaders who try to pacify our calls for revolution with reformist crumbs and the promise of seats at the bosses’ table.

Workers of the world, unite to smash the whole damn profit system! ☪

Housing for profit can never meet workers' needs



INGLEWOOD, CA—Seventy people rallied in support of tenants fighting back against racist gentrification and landlord abuse. Tenants from the Inglewood Gardens (IG) apartments have been subjected to inhumane conditions for months. These conditions are the result of a racist system of private rental property that puts landlord profits way above the needs of tenants for safe, decent housing. Capitalism is a system that allows profiteering bankers and landlords to make enormous profits off the backs of working class people by treating shelter, a human need, as a commodity. When that system is overthrown and replaced by communism, housing will be distributed according to need; there will be no money.

The rally, called by the Lennox-Inglewood Tenants' Union (LITU), was a major success. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members have been active in the union. Despite the pandemic and threats and harassment from the landlord, five tenants joined the rally. There was overwhelming support from passing drivers, who honked loudly. The rally ended with a well-received march around the neighborhood. The marchers chanted, "When Inglewood tenants are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back" among other chants. The rally also inspired almost 20 new people to attend the next online LITU general meeting, after which eight workers joined the tenant union.

Fight racist gentrification and landlord profiteering

LITU has been organizing at IG for close to a year. IG is directly across the street from SoFi Stadium, the new home of the Los Angeles Rams and the LA Chargers football teams, and was scheduled to open this summer. The LA Clippers basketball

team is building another stadium within two miles of SoFi. It is scheduled to open in 2024. Los Angeles is also hosting the 2028 Olympic Games, and will undoubtedly use these two stadiums.

Inglewood is a predominantly working class, Black and Latin city southwest of Los Angeles. Partly because of mass pressure from Inglewood's workers, the Inglewood City Council was recently forced to institute rent control, limiting increases to three percent per year or the cost of living, whichever is greater. However, the ordinance still allows unlimited rent increases once a unit is vacated.

Not long after the beginning of construction of SoFi in late 2016, property values soared and the former IG owner jacked up rents 40 percent and more. Some tenants moved out then. In September 2019, Alfa Investments LLC, bought the building, planning even more increases.

Alfa's strategy is typical of real estate capitalists everywhere. They refused to repair apartments with nasty, extensive mold. They overlooked roaches and other insect infestations. Sinks were left totally inoperable or allowed to leak. Meanwhile, Alfa performed noisy repair work on weekends and into the early evenings, focusing exclusively on the vacant apartments. Cosmetic changes on the outside of the building and in the building courtyard masked the true conditions of the remaining tenants' apartments. More tenants moved out, thereby removing those apartments from rent control.

Alfa's racist neglect of the Black and Latin IG tenant population knows no bounds. They ripped out tenant mailboxes without any notice. New mailboxes were put in months ago, but tenants still

have no keys. The letter carrier continues to deliver mail into open tenant mail slots in a room that is open 24 hours a day. Alfa lies, blaming everything on a post office "backlog" in approving the new boxes. A postal service supervisor has said there is no backlog.

This was all done under the "watchful" eye of the city government. Politicians lie about supporting workers, but really they all serve the capitalists. Their job is to fool workers with their lies.

Because word of the rally and march spread widely on social media, the Mayor of Inglewood, who claims to have workers' best interests at heart, vowed to have Inglewood Code Enforcement visit the IG apartments. So the landlord was forced to meet with the tenant leader, two LITU members and a City code inspector. But the inspector clearly sided with the landlord who refused LITU's demand to move the remaining tenants into the newly renovated apartments, or to make anything other than superficial repairs to the tenants' apartments. A capitalist is only willing to do for the working class as much as he feels forced to! But we fight on. LITU and the tenants, and members of PLP are planning further actions, including exposing the Mayor, City agencies, and the entire, racist, capitalist system.

As PLP members within LITU, we will continue to point out the treadmill nature of reform and the need to overthrow this entire, rancid system. The lessons from this struggle are clear. As long as capitalism is allowed to exist, members of the working class will be forced into constant struggles for their very lives. Only a communist revolution, led by the PLP, can eliminate this scourge from the face of the earth. ☸

PL'ers bring ideas of multiracial unity and communism to rally

BROOKLYN, July 16—A small group of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members joined a rally calling for an hour of “Black vulnerability.” The crowd that gathered was multiracial and multi-generational. Before the speeches began, the PL'ers walked through the crowd, distributed CHALLENGE, and had conversations with many workers.

But what do you mean by revolution?

In the first hour of an open mic, it was announced that only Black speakers should come up. This is an unfortunate theme within the Black Lives Matter uprising. While capitalism super-exploits Black workers, all workers are under attack by the system. A better world can only be won through multi-racial unity, and falling for capitalism's ideology of dividing the working class and that some workers can only be involved in minimal ways, is a fast way to kill the movement.

The first several speakers gave passionate speeches about the oppression faced by Black workers under capitalism and by the bosses' thugs, the kkkops. One speaker spoke of the failures of the system and said we need to be ready for a revolution—but what kind of revolution?

The only kind of revolution the workers need is a communist one. Capitalism needs to be smashed and communism is the way forward for workers. That's where PL'ers must sharpen the fight.

Black nationalism: been there, done that

The dead-end path of identity politics and Black nationalism will inevitably lead workers into the capitalist bosses' camp. From Haiti to South Africa, nationalism has derailed workers' revolts and led them to death and exploitation by a new set of bosses. When these ideas take power within the working class, the oppressors win.

By dividing us, nationalism conquers us. There is another choice for all workers: multiracial unity.

Multiracial unity is non-negotiable

Unity of the international working class is the only force that can end racism and ultimately smash capitalism with communist revolution. Progressive Labor Party is taking that path. For over 55 years, PLP has built a multiracial movement and fought racism and sexism in the streets, in factories



PL gives a speech denouncing identity politics. She also calls for a *communist* revolution

and hospitals, in schools and colleges. Struggle has taught us that there are no good bosses, regardless of color, gender, or nationalist identification.

The latest wave of rebellion keeps teaching us that multiracial unity is indispensable and non-negotiable. The only way forward is together.

On the road to communist revolution

A Black PL'er went up to speak and make these points. To break the idea of only Black people at the mic, a white comrade went up with her. Her speech was powerful, as she spoke about the failures of the system in her school and in her family's healthcare. She broke down the reasons why multiracial fight-back is essential, and why as we continue to join the fight for various reforms we have to always be in fact fighting for a communist revolution as the

end goal.

At every key point she made, she made it clear, for example: “We can fight to abolish police, but only on the road to communist revolution.” With that repeated refrain, the protesters were energized and applauded. This shows that workers can be won to the most left ideas.

Anti-capitalist ideas are spreading, and this is inspiring and invigorating! But until workers own the idea that there is a whole alternative to this rotten system, we will be continuously roped back into the electoral system, being convinced that finally picking just the right politician will “fix” this. It is the job of communists to show that there is no end to the working class' oppression and misery until a workers' world, communism, is won. Keep on fighting!✊

CUNY: make the bosses take the losses

NEW YORK CITY, July 18—A mix of caravans and protests organized against the impending racist cuts to City University of New York (CUNY) that hurt Black, Latin, and immigrant students the most. The workers and students at CUNY are not taking these attacks lying down. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and friends participated, bringing CHALLENGE and the message that workers and students will only be able to create an educational system free from racism, sexism, individualism and idealism if we smash capitalism and build a communist world.

The racist administrators of CUNY have joined with bosses across the world in attempting to solve their pandemic-driven financial crisis on the backs of workers and students. Last week, they announced the layoffs of nearly 3,000 adjunct (part-time) instructors, amounting to nearly 10 percent of the unionized faculty and staff at CUNY. A simultaneous announcement of larger class sizes in the Fall semester, and their despicable silence about a pending \$320 increase in tuition and fees, shows their racist contempt for the majority Black and Latin students at CUNY.

PLP pointed out the racist nature of the attack, for CUNY has exposed themselves as uninterested in their students, of whom 71 percent are Black, Latin, and Asian and 63 percent are women

(CUNY Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, 11/12/2019). The bosses would rather prepare them for a world of fascist discipline and world war. It is worth noting that these racist attacks against students are taking place at one of the most liberal cities in the U.S., thus revealing that both Democrats and Republicans are enemies of the working class.

Bronx College, a site of growing fightback

A couple days prior, a multiracial and multi-generational group of 50 faculty, staff and students gathered in front of the gates of Bronx Community College to protest the callous and disgusting firing of 36 long-term adjuncts. Some of these instructors have been at the college for more than 15 years, but because they were the highest-paid, they were the first to be offloaded by a racist administration that is only concerned with balancing the budget.

Worker-student solidarity is key

Two of the laid-off instructors spoke passionately about their love for teaching BCC students. Even as they were facing the loss of a significant chunk of their livelihood, they recognized that the primary target for this racist attack was the students, who will be crammed into larger classes

with fewer resources. They also both spoke about the need for militant fight back to be the primary way forward. There was no mention of politicians or voting, indicating that the bosses' illusions about elections were secondary.

These moments present a tremendous opportunity for the injection of communist politics and friends. Comrades present attempted this in speeches and in conversations with coworkers and students. We made sure that every participant left with a copy of CHALLENGE.

There was a tremendous student turn-out, including two students who have been active in a PLP study group. They, and others, spoke about how CUNY's racist policies in general, and these layoffs in particular, hurt both students and faculty and the need for unity in order to have any hope of defeating the attacks. The unity of students and teachers is the greatest fear of college administrators, because they will ultimately resort to portraying the faculty as selfish and greedy should a strike or other work action be organized. For this reason, having such significant student support is key.

The demonstration finished with a march, showing workers in the neighborhood that there

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Profit system, a petri dish for disease

Capitalist agricultural practices have led to devastating diseases caused by global virus outbreaks that have been occurring with increasing frequency: AIDS (1981), SARS (2002), Ebola (2014), and now Covid-19. Putting profit before people has increased the number and impact of zoonotic (traced to wild animals) viruses.

As long as capitalism continues to ravage the earth, humanity will suffer from more and more of these diseases. Communism, a system that works to meet people's need instead of for private profits, is the only viable alternative to capitalist death and destruction.

Capitalism has brought exotic animal side by side with traditional livestock in Wuhan markets, and elsewhere. Sellers of this food cut deep into forests for their goods, and the animals they find, full of previously unknown pathogens, are brought into the cities.

At least 60 percent of new (novel) human viruses and bacteria come from these wild animals. Novel viruses are a problem because no one has immunity to them.

The return of China to capitalism after 1976 laid the basis for the exotic food markets. After communism ended there, the Chinese government took a first step towards capitalism by redistributing what had been collective farmland to individual households. These "smallholder" farmers were later replaced in the 1990s by industrial food production conglomerates. This pushed the smallholders to look for other ways to make a living, and some turned to wild animal breeding.

The so-called Spanish Flu of 1918 was spread during World War I. A war fought so that the United States, German, French and other capitalists could divide the world among themselves for colonial exploitation. This century's deadly viruses are spread through international capitalist markets and supply chains, which bring with them international travel and exchange of goods.

When the driving force behind decision-making is profit instead of working-class necessity, there is a 100 percent chance that decision will harm the working class of the world. Even when their own research proves conditions are ripe for the spread of disease, the profit motive overrides safety. A system that knowingly puts the working-class and the world at risk does not deserve to exist.



CAPITALISM IS THE VIRUS. COMMUNISM IS THE CURE.

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The right conditions for disease

As capitalist food production invades most of the world, small farmers are pushed off their lands and into the cities. These cities and their surroundings become overcrowded, filled with poor workers who barely eke out a living, and have little to no health care or clean water. Combine that with deforestation, and you have viruses formerly controlled by the complexities of the tropical forest making their way to big cities in only a few days. Viruses whose impact would once have been confined to villages on the edge of the forest now spread across the world through travel and trade.

Another way capitalist agriculture creates pandemics is by growing food, both plant crops and animals, with nearly identical sets of genes. Berkshire swine, for example, "are known for fast and efficient growth, reproductive efficiency, cleanness and meat flavor and value." These genetically similar animals allow viruses, as they mutate, to eventually "hit the jackpot" and infect the whole population. In a genetically diverse animal population, the virus would likely only infect some of the herds. The capitalists, however, base their decisions on profitability, not human disease prevention.

The capitalists also find it more profitable to keep animals confined to a small space, so they can produce more meat per acre. This facilitates greater transmission of viruses and other pathogens. Because these animals are grown for profitability, their conditions are unsanitary, which weakens their immune systems. Overcrowding helps the pathogens spread quickly through the factory farms. Global animal exports give viruses new opportunities to spread. Antibiotics are routinely fed to animals in confinement on factory farms. The widespread heavy use of antibiotics—not to treat sick animals, but as a growth "promoter"—has led to the development of bacteria resistance to multiple antibiotics.

Diseases, just a cost of business

The profiteers see the occasional disease outbreaks as part of the cost of doing business. The U.S. government, and others around the world, play diminishing roles in regulating factory farms and processing plants. Governmental support for practices that contribute to outbreaks of disease have resulted in greater numbers of people infected by foodborne outbreaks.

Capitalist agriculture, globalization, and farming methods that destroy natural barriers to pathogens all allowed Covid-19 and other deadly diseases to invade the world. Profiteers have travelled the globe, destroying anything (including millions of human lives) that gets in the way of their quest for riches, and laying the basis for new viruses that sicken and kill.

A better world is possible

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) breaks it down this way: these bloodsucking profiteers will never give up their capitalist system peacefully. An armed working class, under the leadership of PLP communists, must smash the system. We will build communism, a system that unites the working class to build a sustainable life for all of us. We fight for communism, a system free of racism, sexism, and other capitalist divisions. We will grow plants and animals to provide people with healthy, nutritious food to eat, not for profit. We will promote science and teach science to everyone, so that we can collectively remake the world the capitalists are destroying. Join us.🌱

Fight for our collective health, fight for Communism

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over 70 percent of nurses voting rejected it (NBC Chicago, 7/12). Over 170 nurses didn't even bother to vote on the second proposal (Patch, 7/20). Many were clearly discouraged after realizing that they were basically only "breaking even" after a two-week strike.

The fact that the union failed to take any kind of real stand for the nurses should come as little surprise. At their core, unions exist under capitalism to limit workers' struggle within acceptable limits for the bosses, and to decide the terms of our exploitation through periodic contract negotiations.

Contrast this with a communist society, where institutions like hospitals and clinics would be organized and run by workers, for our own benefit. There would be no bosses to rip us off and put us and our patients in danger, no leeches profiting off our labor. We would make decisions collectively



and advance workers' health tremendously, just like was done after the communist revolutions in Russia and China in the 20th century (see CHALLENGE, 7/8).

A world to win

But such a society requires a mass international workers' movement, under the revolutionary leadership of the communist PLP. The reform struggles that we find ourselves in today, both big and small, can arm our class with the consciousness and courage that we need to take on the capitalist bosses as we build for revolution.

We are thankful to learn and draw inspiration from our fellow working-class fighters, from the nurses in Joliet to workers all over the world. We call on all our class sisters and brothers to connect their struggles against capitalist exploitation, unemployment, hunger, and disease together and fight to wipe them all out by fighting for an egalitarian communist society. We have a world to win!🌱

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

One club's efforts to organize during pandemic

The time spent confined due to the pandemic has been a time of action that started since the beginning of quarantine. Our club has been very active having virtual meetings and group studies with friends. We have also been participating in the meetings and activities organized by the community organization, where we are building our base. We have been a part of their campaigns to cancel rents; close the immigration jails, where our brothers are being exposed and dying of Covid-19; and approve a package for more than three billion dollars from the state government for people who have been excluded from federal aid. We have distributed many issues of CHALLENGE especially during the last two protests and we have always expounded our Party line.

In those struggles for reforms, we have militantly participated, providing leadership with our chants and with our newspaper, CHALLENGE, in which it explains to people that the only way is communist revolution, which will lead the workers to power.

I have been very excited to participate with my comrades from our club. Guided by our leader and other comrades, especially a friend from another club, who is a school teacher and has set up the Zoom meetings and participated in all of them. We have been witnesses and a part of these important days that we have lived for the development of our communist ideology. That is why at every march, in every protest and in every struggle, we have brought our line.

We should continue to be a part of this movement that prepares us for the Great Battle for the defeat of capitalism and imperialism, where we will be, in the front line of combat.

Communism is the salvation and the future of humanity. Join our struggle.

★★★★★

The tide of rising fascism

The struggle against racist police terror continues to provide us with the responsibility to explain fascism and expose the liberal politicians' role in developing fascism.

Chris Dunn of the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) called the NYPD's response to the current wave of protests "shocking and unprecedented."

"I don't think in 50 years we had the level of protest we've seen in New York City and we certainly have not seen the level of police violence directed at protesters."

Like all liberal misleaders, Mayor Bill de Blasio has backed the NYPD terrorists including "kettling" demonstrators who posed no threat whatever! Commissioner Dermot Shea, however, has decried the few reforms de Blasio has been forced to sign including a ban on chokeholds like the one that murdered Eric Garner in 2014. The mayor has made no response to Shea's criticisms implying that the cops can continue their brutal, deadly "business as usual" to intimidate multiracial protesters.

The most obvious turning of the fascist screw has been Trump's stormtroopers. In Portland, Oregon, the Homeland Security goons in unmarked cars tear-gassed and arrested antiracist protesters. The President has threatened to do this to the Chicago working class as well. We must mobilize more widely and sharper than ever against this expanded fascist attack!

Another facet of fascist oppression is this oncoming tsunami of racist evictions nationwide. Clearly the police are part of the bosses' arsenal to enforce brutal, mass homelessness caused by the capitalist depression deepening by the week.

Our PL club is reaching out to all of our members and friends to prepare to mobilize fightback wherever there is a threat of eviction. Two tenant actions have already challenged housing courts in Brooklyn and the Bronx. We must join them.

Our organizing outreach is finding more of our base than in years open to the Party's analysis and considering JOINING! This is the real victory!

★★★★★

CHALLENGE responds: *This forward thinking is very much needed in the coming period. While Small Fascist Trump may be the most obvious, the analysis here is incomplete. While it is difficult to swim against the current, communists must warn of war and fascism led by the liberals. The ruling class is divided. The Big Fascists—the main wing finance capitalists—are committed to U.S. dominance for the world's resources and the world land war such dominance will require. Meanwhile, the domestic-oriented Small Fascists, who Trump represents, have little interest in making the sacrifices such a war will require. While Trump's stormtroopers pose an immediate danger in this period; the liberal rul-*

ers, who are posing as the savior and alternative to this rotten system, are the principal danger. We must attack the liberals in the same breath as everyone attacks Trump. If we fail to do so, the working class will be hit hard by the high tide of fascism.

★★★★★

An international Class Perspective on Tulsa

The 7/22 CHALLENGE article on the Tulsa Massacre lacked an international class perspective and viewed it as another domestic racist U.S. tragedy. The article does not mention the role of European radical immigrant workers, or the massive U.S. strike wave and Red Scare that triggered the U.S. government's racist terror. Only the anarchists, anti-communist Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and the Socialist Party, which sought an alliance with capitalism, are credited with any struggle against the capitalist bosses.

An international class perspective would reveal that in 1917 Russian workers made the first communist revolution and the U.S. entered imperialist World War I against Germany. In 1918 US troops were sent to put down the Russian workers' revolution, which was part of a worldwide revolution against the capitalist world. In 1919 the U.S. Communist Party and the Communist International in the Soviet Union were formed. In the same year, the eight-hour working day was won in the U.S. where a massive strike wave swept the country triggering a Red Scare. In 1920 the U.S. Palmer Raids deported tens of thousands of immigrant workers who were radicalized in European class struggles and were accused of worker unity and union organizing. The 1921 Tulsa massacre was very probably capitalist organized racist terror to split white and Black workers (many WWI vets) and break the Red Scare strike wave.

Today's antiracist movement should not be viewed as a U.S. racist terror struggle alone. It should be viewed but as part of an international class struggle against the worldwide system that oppresses all workers not only with racism but sexism, inequality and endless wars. Black-white unity today in the U.S. with support of this movement by millions of workers in most countries worldwide testifies to its class nature.

★★★★★

Students hurt the most in bosses attacks

Continued from page 4

is a multiracial, worker-student alliance that is ready to take the fight to a higher level. A PL'er led most of the chants, and so the sounds of "Shut it Down!" and "The Workers United Will Never Be Defeated!" were taken up by the marchers.

Driving the fightback

Nearly 200 cars, including some driven by PLP members, participated in caravans in four of the five NYC boroughs, organized by the Professional Staff Congress (PSC), the union representing CUNY faculty and staff. A simultaneous Zoom online meeting expanded the action to another 800 PSC members, and in addition 2,000 more people watched the livestream on Facebook, many of them from other unions and other colleges around the country.

One caravan ended with a rally of participants proud of having brought this off and feeling closer to our co-workers. It was a gathering of force for the hard battles to come. For example, if the PSC calls a strike in the Fall, lessons learned from these first caravans can teach us how to organize a picket on wheels, or roving flying squads of bikes and cars going from campus to campus. There is agitation within the union for a strike to be called. But whether or not the union leadership takes this up, they cannot provide a solution that benefits students and education workers both.

What is victory?

One of the main victories of actions like these is workers' and students' growing sense of our own collective power and the confidence to wield that power. The recent rebellions against police terror are an inspiration for CUNY workers and students to beat back this racist attack.

In these and future events, PLP will bring students and workers into study groups and into the Party where they can work for communism together with and under the leadership of the Black and Latin youth they teach. We will be present at future demonstrations, increasing confidence in our ability to lead a communist revolution and secure a communist future. ☸



Cecile Rol-Tanguy, a leader against fascism



Communists strive to serve the working class by boldly providing leadership to the working-class struggle, modestly and without the bombast of the bosses' politicians. Cecile Rol-Tanguy, a model for all of us, died earlier this year on May 8, 2020 at the age of 101. You probably never heard of her, but her life is an inspiration in our battle against the catastrophic effects of capitalism.

Communists' historic role has been to warn of war and fight fascism, which is capitalism at its late state. As fascism continues to rise worldwide, we look back at how our predecessors have fought fascism around World War II.

Cecile, a proud communist leader

Cecile was a leader of the French Resistance when the Nazis occupied France in the 1940s. Germany had installed the collaborationist French Vichy government under Petain to control French opposition. The Resistance played a heroic role fighting the Nazis and the French traitors. They attacked Nazis, organized and distributed propaganda, rescued Allied soldiers, sabotaged enemy weapons, and liberated Paris in August 1944.

Cecile was a communist leader of the Resistance following the example set by her father, François Le Bihan, an electrician and a founding member of the French Communist Party in 1920 who

was killed by Nazis at the Auschwitz death camp. She said, "I was born into an anti-fascist family, or to be more precise, a communist family" (The Washington Post, 5/13). She grew up in a home that also hosted many communist refugees and exiles from across Europe.

Cecile met her future-husband in the struggle as well. She married the communist Resistance leader, Henri Rol-Tanguy. They dedicated their lives to fighting fascist Spain and Germany. During the early stages of their relationship, he volunteered in the International Brigades fighting in the Spanish Civil War. Later, Henri deployed with the International Brigade to fight in the Spanish Civil War.

My strength was remaining cool

As a liaison officer, Cecile used her skills to outwit the Nazi occupation of Paris by carrying anti-fascist fliers, pistols, bullets, and grenades, and attack plans, among other supplies, in her children's baby carriage as she maneuvered her way around the city, posing as an innocent Parisian mother. She said *My strength was always in remaining cool*, in an interview (The Washington Post, 5/13).

She and her children lived with Henri's mother barely having enough to eat. Her young baby died under these circumstances followed by her father's

capture and deportation to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Despairing that she had nothing to lose, she threw herself into the anti-fascist struggle. "My father had been arrested, I didn't know where my husband was, and I had lost my little girl. What could hold me back?" she said in an interview with Times of London in 2012.

A woman's place is in the class struggle

While Henri received acclaim after the war, France hardly recognized her contributions because of her unapologetic identity as a communist (The Washington Post, 5/13). It wasn't until 2014 and 2017 when France finally presented her with two prestigious awards. Thousands of other French women suffered from the sexist scapegoating by the French after the war. Portrayed as collaborators, they were stripped, branded, and beaten for allegedly sleeping with Nazis in exchange for safety and food. This false picture became the popular image of French women, eclipsing the courageous efforts of the women in the Resistance.

Charles de Gaulle, the anti-communist leader of the French Free Army, took power away from the Resistance armies. Dedicated to a pro-Western capitalist France, he stole all the credit for the French victory and barely recognized the communists' critical insurrectionary role. The lesson here is that the liberal democrats historically plays an anti-communist role. They are never our friends, as their intent is to maintain capitalism.

While the French Communist Party ultimately squandered their triumph in Paris by entering a coalition government with the capitalist political parties, the French communist resistance reveals how we can organize under difficult political, economic, social, and psychological conditions for a world based on egalitarianism and workers' power. As the world imperialist powers China and U.S. accelerate towards world war, communists and friends everywhere can seek inspiration from leaders like Cecile to fulfill our historic role as fighters against fascism. One day, we will eliminate these evils once and for all with a communist revolution.✊



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Workers worldwide at risk

Bloomberg News, 7/19—Workers of the world are increasingly at risk as governments and employers continue to violate globally recognized labor rights.

According to the latest International Trade Union Confederation's Global Rights Index which ranks 144 countries on their respect for workers' rights, "the breakdown of the social contract" is at its worst point since the index's creation in 2014.

Between April 2019 and March 2020, 123 countries violated the right to strike, and 115 violated the right to collective bargaining; 106 countries excluded workers from establishing or joining a union; in 103 countries, workers had no or restricted access to justice; workers were arrested and detained in 61 countries; workers experienced violence in 51 countries; and workers were murdered, including at trade union protests, in nine countries.

The most dangerous locations were Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe. Workers and union leaders in these countries face regressive legislation, government surveillance, mass dismissal, union-busting and strike repression, as well as arbitrary arrest, prosecution and imprisonment, death threats and assassination. This report was compiled before the full scale of Covid-19 was known.

Racism behind Covid-19 spread

NYT, 7/6 — Black and Latino people have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus in a widespread manner ...three times as likely to

become infected as their white neighbors....And ...nearly twice as likely to die from the virus as white people....

[In Missouri, a] state where 40 percent of those infected are Black or Latino [they are] just 16 percent of the state's population....

Native American people in much of Arizona... were far more likely to become infected than white people....

In...Grand Rapids and its suburbs, Black and Latino residents account for 63 percent of infections...[but are] just 20 percent of the county's population....

...Black and Latino people [are] more likely... to be exposed...Many...have front-line jobs that keep them from working at home, rely on public transportation or live in cramped apartments... Of Latino people who died, more than a quarter were younger than 60. Among white people who died, only 6 percent were that young....Underlying health problems — often caused by factors that people cannot control, such as lack of access to healthy food options and health care — play a major role in Covid-19 deaths....In June, C.D.C. officials estimated that the true tally of virus cases was 10 times the number of reported cases.

Virus used to exploit millions of women domestic workers

NYT, 7/8 — When the nine African women lost their jobs, as housekeepers in Saudi Arabia because of the coronavirus lockdown, the agency that had recruited them stuffed them in a bare room with a few thin mattresses and locked the door.

Some have been there since March. One is now

six months pregnant but receiving no maternity care. Another tore her clothes off in a fit of distress, so the agency chained her to a wall....

The women receive food once a day....Arab countries rely on millions of low-paid workers from Southeast Asia and Africa...under conditions that...allow exploitation and abuse....The pandemic and associated economic downturns have exacerbated these dangers....

Most come to the Middle East through recruitment agencies...In many cases, they cannot... leave the country without an employer's permission....many [who] confiscate their workers' passports and deprive them of time off....Physical and sexual abuse are common.

...[When] Hanico Quinlat, a Filipino domestic worker in Saudi Arabia...tested positive for Covid-19, the agency supervisor locked her in a room alone...."When they give us food, they throw it into the room," Ms. Quinlat said...."We are people, not animals."

Marxism source of anti-racism movement in U.S.

NYT, 7/8 — The president's son Donald Trump, Jr. and Representative Lee Zeldin, a Long Island Republican....have invoked Marxism as the driving philosophy behind the country's anti-racism movement....

And workers in Russia still love Stalin

NYT, 7/8 — Stalin...has never been more popular in Russia. An opinion poll last year found a record 70 percent thought Stalin played a positive role in Russian history.

PLP HISTORY

THE SUMMER OF SMASHING RACISTS





@PLPCHALLENGE

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The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has a long history of fighting racism in the Bronx, Queens, and New Jersey. When Black workers are under racist attack, all workers have to stand up and fight back.

On June 21, 2020, and again on July 5, 2020, the New York Times ran a story with a short video about an attack in the summer of 1975 by some racist white residents on a group of Black teenagers as they were riding their bikes through residential Rosedale, Queens (New York City). The racists waved an American flag, chanted “Civil Rights for Whites,” and threw rocks and hurled racist insults at the Black teens that happened to be passing by. One racist was even seen on the news video saying they wanted the teens out “because they’re Black!” Much like today, this was a time when the main wing of the U.S. ruling class was trying to distance themselves from gutter racism that had served them well in previous eras.

In 1975, PLP organized quickly against this racist upsurge. We marched, demonstrated, leafletted the area, confronted, and smashed the racist group that had been formed in the New York City-Rosedale area. We still have to do more – to build our Party, to win workers and others to PL’s anti-racist, anti-sexist, internationalist line so that racist attacks by kkk-killer kops and racist vigilantes can be stomped out by workers united around the world for good.

Racist ROAR

In 1975, racists in New York and New Jersey were inspired by the racist group ROAR in Boston. ROAR, which stood for “Restore Our Alienated Rights,” opposed busing to end segregation in Boston’s public schools. The letters “R.O.A.R.” were pasted on the windows of the Boston municipal building. Another ROAR leader was on the Boston

School Commission, leading the fight against integrating the public schools. With ROAR leaders on the Boston City Council and a mass base following them, this strategic, gutter racist attack on Black workers was a rapid fascist movement that needed to be smashed by communist fightback.

In May 1975, ROAR held a racist convention in the large Hines auditorium in Boston. PLP members signed up and infiltrated it. We heard ROAR workshop leaders tell us “Blacks have no history.” At day’s end, we held a press conference and denounced ROAR and racism in front of TV cameras and newspaper reporters. Knowing that ROAR goons would attack as soon as they heard about it, we ended the conference after 20 minutes.

Ten minutes later, the ROAR goons arrived but found no one and nothing there.

They were stopped in the Bronx

After their convention, ROAR expanded into New York and New Jersey. The “Morris Park Association” paid for a racist ad in the Bronx Home News. It opposed busing and said that Black workers were getting favored treatment over white workers.

We in PLP organized a march of over a thousand in the Morris Park section of the Bronx. Hundreds

of residents lined the streets to watch our march – there hadn’t been any communist marches in the Bronx for decades. We handed out antiracist flyers, sold CHALLENGE, and talked to many residents.

On September 8, the opening day of school, the racists tried to organize a boycott by white students of Columbus High School, where non-white students were being bussed. A multiracial PLP committee welcomed the bused students and the racist boycott flopped.

Stopped in Rosedale

That summer of ‘75, a small but noisy mob of white residents attacked the Black teens in Rosedale, Queens’ segregated area in response to a few Black families moving in. ROAR had inspired at least one bombing as well. Our response? We in PLP organized a march. We picketed the home of Jerry Scala, leader of the new ROAR chapter and few racists showed up.

Stopped in Montclair, New Jersey

ROAR expanded to a small suburb in Northern NJ and founded a small group. Montclair had started busing for school integration in the 1940s – one of the first towns in the country to do so. Still, a ROAR member ran for the school board. Northern NJ PLP leafletted against her and gutter racism. Her campaign went nowhere.

PLP played a key role in plucking racists’ base building from the root before they could even grow throughout New York and New Jersey. By 1976, ROAR was on the decline in Boston too.

Today when Black workers are still being attacked by gutter racists, these historical examples remind us what antiracist fightback under PLP’s leadership looks like. Racists have to be confronted and shut down, lest their toxic ideas are able to take root. Racism, like capitalism which spawned it, thrives on exploitation and division

.To smash racism, we have to fight for communism! Join a PLP chapter near you and continue the fight today. 🇺🇸

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